GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4029
ANSWERED ON:18.04.2002
AGRREMENT WITH PANAMSAT CORPORATION OF USA
RAMJI MANJHI

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Director General, Doordarshan entered into an agreement with PANAMSATCorporation of USA for the hiring of transponders in August 1995 without the need for a prospective plan has been brought out by the CAG in its Report 2 of 2002 (Civil) in paragraph 13.4 on page 165-166 resulting into a wasteful expenditure of Rs.36.02 crore;

(b) if so, whether the matter has been enquired into and the responsibility was fixed for the wasteful expenditure incurred thereon;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the erring officials;

(d) whether the Ministry has replied to the observations of CAG;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) : The issue of hiring of `Ku band` transponder without necessity and wasteful expenditure of Rs.36.02 crores has been mentioned in the CAG Report No.2 of 2002 (Civil) at paragraph 13.4.

(b) & (c): Director General: Doordarshan had entered into an agreement with ParamSatCorporation of USA in August 1995 for hiring of three transponders (one in C-band and two in Ku-and) under a package deal. Of these, two transponders (one in C-band and one in Ku- band) are in use right from the beginning, whereas the third transponder (Ku-band) has beenput to use recently for test transmission.

No inquiry has been conducted into the delay in utilization of one Ku transponder. However, an inquiry was conducted to determine, inter alia, whether there was any need and/or urgency for the leasing of a foreign satellite channel for DD-International, by a one- man Committee. This Committee concluded that the use of a foreign satellite transponder was necessary for starting DD-International.

(d), (e) & (f) : The observations of CAG are under examination in the Ministry of I&B.